

## Message Text

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13  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 /023 W  
----- 007201

R 181650Z FEB 76  
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3875  
INFO USDOC WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY RABAT

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RABAT FOR REGIONAL AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAGR AG  
SUBJECT: ALGERIAN WHEAT SITUATION

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF GARNAC GRAIN CO. OF N. Y., WHEAT TRADERS, CALLED AT EMBASSY FEB 2 FOR GENERAL BRIEFING ON AGRICULTURAL SITUATION. AT CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSION, THEY INDICATED THEY PLANNED UNDERTAKE SURVEY TRIP TO STUDY ALGERIAN WHEAT PROSPECTS FOR NEXT YEAR. GARNAC PROVIDED FOLLOWING REPORT (IN LETTER TO EMBASSY DATED FEB 11) ON FINDINGS OF SURVEY TRIP WHICH COVERED AREA FROM ALGIERS TO CONSTANTINE AND BATNA (ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF ALGERIAN WHEAT GROWING AREA):

2. "AS FAR AS OUR OBSERVATIONS ON THIS CROP SURVEY TRIP ARE CONCERNED, WE FOUND THAT THE WHEAT FIELDS IN THIS AREA (ALGIERS CONSTANTINE AND BATNA) HAVE A VERY GOOD STAND AND THE PLANT GROWTH IS QUITE UNIFORM. THE PLANTS MIGHT NEED FERTILIZER. THE RAINS IN THE WINTER MONTHS AND ESPECIALLY LAST WEEK SHOULD INSURE THAT THE PLANTS HAVE SUBSOIL MOISTURE FOR SOME TIME.

I WAS VERY SURPRISED TO SEE THAT THE OAIC HAS IN EVERY VILLAGE, LARGE OR SMALL, EITHER FLAT STORAGE FOR GRAIN OR METAL SILOS WITH CAPACITIES FROM 3,000 TO  
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30,000 TONS. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THESE INSTALLATIONS WERE BUILT IN THE VERY SEVENTIES AND ARE OPERATING

VERY WELL.

WE WERE ALSO SURPRISED TO SEE IN EACH VILLAGE GREAT NUMBERS OF THE NEWEST FARM EQUIPMENT SUCH AS DEUTZ TRACTORS, PLOWS, DISKS, CLAAS SEEDING MACHINES, AND CLAAS COMBINES. THE FIELDS WE INSPECTED HAVE BEEN PLOWED WITH TRACTORS RATHER THAN WITH MULES.

WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO SEVERAL SILO MANAGERS OF THE OAIC AND THEIR OPINION IS THAT THE PRESENT CROP LOOKS VERY FAVORABLE AND CAME THROUGH THE WINTER EXCELLENTLY, BUT WE HAVE TO BEAR IN MIND THAT THE CROP WILL GO THROUGH ANOTHER GROWING STAGE, AND A MOST CRITICAL STAGE WILL BE THE END OF APRIL/EARLY MAY."

3. COMMENT: ABOVE DETAILED INFORMATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. EMBASSY WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO USE OF ITS GENERAL CONCLUSIONS, HOWEVER. PARKER

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## Message Attributes

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